



**ARC Training Centre for Advanced Building Systems Against Airborne Infection
Transmission (Thrive)**

Indoor air quality: dampness and mould

16–18 September 2026

VENUE:

Room 1.11 & 1.12, Charles Darwin University, Danala Campus, 54 Cavenagh Street, Darwin CBD, NT

Join via TEAMS:

The links for each day are provided in the tables below (different link for each day)

Background: Indoor air quality (IAQ) and its importance to human health have been studied for decades by experts worldwide across scientific, engineering, public health, and related disciplines. As a result of these efforts, scientific knowledge regarding every aspect of the building-person-environment system has expanded enormously. However, mere understanding is not enough to ensure the optimal functioning of a complex system. Many of the pollutants we inhale indoors originate outdoors, but there are also numerous pollutants originating from indoor sources, processes and occupants and their activities. One such pollutant is mould.

The World Health Organization's *Guidelines for Indoor Air Quality: Dampness and Mould* (2009) highlighted that "*the presence of many biological agents in the indoor environment is due to dampness and inadequate ventilation. Excess moisture on almost all indoor materials leads to the growth of microbes, such as mould, fungi, and bacteria, which subsequently emit spores, cells, fragments, and volatile organic compounds into the indoor air.*" It is well established that dampness and mould in buildings negatively affect occupant health, causing asthma, allergic reactions, infections, and respiratory symptoms, as well as other clinical conditions. Dampness and mould problems are particularly severe in tropical climates. Identifying the problem—*dampness and mould in building*—is the first and essential step toward addressing it; however, it is not the only one. The subsequent issues to be addressed include what to do, what tools to use, who should perform the task, and how to integrate it into a holistic approach to IAQ and the building-person-environment system.

In the tropical environment of Australia's Northern Territory, dampness and mould have been identified as significant issues. The Northern Territory Government is committed to addressing these matters and, more broadly, ensuring healthy IAQ. Tackling these challenges requires science-based, context-specific prevention strategies—particularly those suited to tropical climates. To this end, the forum aims to discuss several key issues:

1. Current lines of research in Australia: what are we learning about IAQ and mould.
2. What options exist to protect community health from mould?
3. How can indoor environments be optimized in terms of IAQ, thermal comfort, and reduction of dampness?
4. IAQ: a challenge for the government.
5. How do professional societies and organisations influence measures regarding IAQ and mould control in Australia?

This interdisciplinary forum will bring together experts from various fields, such as architecture, building engineering, air quality, microbiology, public health, and government.

Pre-Forum Networking Event

Wednesday, 16 September 2026, 5:00pm – 7:00pm (Darwin)

VENUE (IN PERSON ONLY):

Room 1.11 & 1.12, Charles Darwin University, Danala Campus, 54 Cavenagh Street, Darwin CBD, NT

Forum Agenda

Thursday, 17 September 2026, 9:00am – 4:40pm (Darwin)

VENUE: Room 1.11 & 1.12, Charles Darwin University, Danala Campus, 54 Cavenagh Street, Darwin CBD, NT

Join via TEAMS: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/493721388210614?p=gnaSqutsH6l9bozBC6>

Meeting ID: 493 721 388 210 614 | Passcode: An3si2XQ

Start time	End time	Agenda
8:30am	9:00am	Arrival, Registration & Coffee
9:00am	9:20am	Session Chair: D/Prof Lidia Morawska Distinguished Professor Lidia Morawska, Queensland University of Technology (QUT) Welcome and Introduction: why indoor air quality matters
9:20am	10:00am	Distinguished Professor J. David Miller, Carleton University (via Teams) Mould and dampness in homes, and non-industrial workplaces
10:00am	10:10am	Group Photo (10 mins)
10:10am	10:20am	Session Chair: Prof Lindy Burton <u>PRESENTATION SESSION 1: Building, dampness, mould and IAQ: research conducted in Australia</u> Professor Lindy Burton, Charles Darwin University Architecture, tropical design and the gap between design intent and building operation
10:20am	10:30am	Professor Rebbecca Bentley / Professor Christina Candido (via Teams), The University of Melbourne Addressing the public health challenge of mould in homes
10:30am	10:40am	Associate Professor Arianna Brambilla (via Teams), The University of Sydney One step ahead: detecting mould before it grows
10:40am	10:50am	Dr. Mark Dewsbury, The University of Tasmania (via Teams) Data informed built fabric design
10:50am	11:00am	<u>QUESTIONS & ANSWERS</u>
11:00am	11:20am	Coffee Break (20 mins)
11:20am	11:30am	Session Chair: D/Prof Lidia Morawska <u>PRESENTATION SESSION 2: Government perspectives</u> David Chin, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, Northern Territory Government Northern Territory Government perspective on indoor air quality, dampness and mould
11:30am	11:40am	Susan Bowden, Acting CEO, Northern Territory Health Public sector assets, facilities management and emergency response
11:40am	11:50am	Luke Dugdell, Claims Hero Insurance, mould and consumer harm: how the lack of enforceable standards is harming insurance consumers
11:50am	12:00pm	Ana McKay, Acting Manager Regulatory Compliance, NT WorkSafe, Northern Territory Government Title TBC
12:00pm	1:00pm	Session Chair: D/Prof Lidia Morawska <u>PANEL DISCUSSION: Government perspectives</u> - David Chin, Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, Northern Territory Government - Susan Bowden, Acting CEO, Northern Territory Health - Luke Dugdell, Claims Hero - Ana McKay, Acting Manager Regulatory Compliance, NT WorkSafe, Northern Territory Government
1:00pm	2:00pm	Lunch (1 hour)

Start time	End time	Agenda
		Session Chair: David Chin
2:00pm	2:10pm	PRESENTATION SESSION 3: Professional associations and organizations perspectives Dr. Peter McGarry, Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists (AIOH) Research and Innovation Sub Committee Informing an AIOH white paper on the future direction on training and support for members on indoor air quality, including dampness and mould, and policy engagement
2:10pm	2:20pm	Vicki Callaway, Executive Officer, Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand (CASANZ) Indoor air quality exposure – A scientific approach to guiding change and regulation for consultants & advocates
2:20pm	2:30pm	Dr. Claire Bird, Associate Director, The Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air-conditioning and Heating (AIRAH) IAQ Special Technical Group HVAC and air – why and how AIRAH is developing tools for mould and dampness reduction in Australian buildings?
2:30pm	2:40pm	Sam Ruff, Restoration Institute of Australia (RIA) RIA Australasia's advocacy and education initiatives
		Session Chair: David Chin
2:40pm	3:40pm	PANEL DISCUSSION: Professional associations and organizations perspectives • Dr. Peter McGarry, AIOH Research and Innovation Sub Committee • Vicki Callaway, CASANZ • Claire Bird, AIRAH IAQ Special Technical Group • Sam Ruff, RIA
3:40pm	4:00pm	Afternoon Tea (20 mins)
4:00pm	4:20pm	CLOSING SESSION Associate Professor Zbigniew Suchorab, Lublin University of Technology (via Teams) Emerging technologies for assessing moisture in buildings
4:20pm	4:40pm	Distinguished Professor Lidia Morawska, QUT Conclusion and the way forward
5:00pm	6:00pm	WELL Global Commission Pre-Launch of the Global Framework for Action

Discussion on future approaches to mould in Australia

Friday, 18 September 2026, 9:00am – 12:00pm (Darwin)

VENUE: Room 1.11 & 1.12, Charles Darwin University, Danala Campus, 54 Cavenagh Street, Darwin CBD, NT

Join via TEAMS: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/495566162024726?p=LhOG2KN82MkPPHWrUr>

Meeting ID: 495 566 162 024 726 | Passcode: XJ9d2Tc3

Start time	End time	Agendas
		Session Co-Chairs: D/Prof Lidia Morawska and Prof Rebecca Bentley
9:00am	9:20am	PRESENTATION: Dr. Cameron Jones, Natural Institute of Integrated Medicine Why Australia needs mould guidelines?
9:20am	9:40am	Dr. Heike Neumeister-Kemp, Mycotec The concept behind the new Australian mould guidelines: towards a consensus document
9:40am	10:30am	QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
10:30am	10:45am	Coffee Break
10:45am	12:00pm	OPEN DISCUSSION AND THE WAY FORWARD